



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# *Celilo Village*

## Redevelopment Newsletter

June 2005

### Redevelopment history \_\_\_\_\_

For millennia, the Celilo area has served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. Celilo Village currently supports 13 dwellings and about 50 people, but inadequate sanitary and water systems have caused public health and safety problems that concern federal, tribal, state and local health officials. To resolve these problems, the tribes formally requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Celilo Village Redevelopment was authorized by Pres. George W. Bush on March 2, 2004, as part of Public Law 108-204, and provides for the reconstruction of the village and associated structures and systems, repairs to the longhouse, and operation and maintenance of the rebuilt village. The Corps continues to work with the tribes, agencies, residents and other stakeholders to make redevelopment a reality. The Corps is scheduling and facilitating monthly meetings with the reconstituted Wyam Board.

### Lieutenant General Strock, Chief of Engineers, Visits Celilo

Lieutenant General Carl Strock, the 51<sup>st</sup> Chief of Engineers, visited Celilo Village on May 25 to view the Longhouse construction. General Strock spoke with numerous Celilo Village residents; tribal members; Yakama, Warm Springs, and Umatilla tribal council members; Wyam Board representatives; and BIA and Corps staff. General Strock had previously visited the village when he was the commander of the Corps' Northwestern Division, and was one of the Celilo Village Redevelopment project's earliest advocates. He has been a staunch supporter of the project since that time and was pleased to have the opportunity to view the progress of construction firsthand.



General Strock sharing a joke and a blanket with a tribal member



General Strock discussing the project with Bruce Thomas, the on-site construction manager



General Strook discussing the project with Delilah Heemsah, Wyam Board member and Celilo Village resident

## Longhouse renovation

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The final construction inspection for the Longhouse and kitchen was held on June 24, and construction is now complete. A formal dedication ceremony is being planned for the Longhouse, and the date of the ceremony will be included in the next edition of this newsletter.



Interior view of the Longhouse during construction



Interior view of the Longhouse with construction complete





Interior view of the kitchen. Photo by Steve Smith.



Exterior view of the Longhouse and kitchen. Photo by Steve Smith.

## Community Code and Guidebook Development \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Roger Wagoner of *Berryman & Henigar* has completed a draft version of the community code and guidebook. Mr. Wagoner and the Corps held two public meetings at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center on May 26 to discuss the code and guidebook, and to gather comments. The Corps hired Marcel Johnson of the *Naegeli Reporting Corporation* to record and produce a transcript of the

meeting. The transcript and the comments received will be sent to all interested parties for further comment and review.

## Upcoming activities

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- **Thursday, July 7.** The next scheduled Wyam Board meeting will be held in the boardroom at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, Oregon from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting is open to the public and will provide an update on the status of the longhouse construction and cover other topics related to Celilo Village redevelopment.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is designed to provide information about Celilo Village Redevelopment. It is published monthly by the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project Delivery Team of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or by email at [george.j.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.j.miller@usace.army.mil). For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jeremy Weber at (503) 808-4735 or by email at [jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil).

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